companies engaged in production of iron steel and (ii) sublease, for coal mining to private parties, if isolated small pockets not amenable to economic development and not requiring rail transport.

The Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act 1973 was further amended in 1993 thereby permitting industries engaged in power generation to mine coal for captive use. Then, companies engaged in cement production were permitted to undertake coal mining for captive use by a notification in 1996.

Sliding work force in coal sector

2718. SHRISITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that work force in coal industry is sliding gradually;

if so, the reasons therefor; and

what has been the per employees production in coal industry during the last five years, year-wise;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The work force in coal industry is decreasing mainly due to superannuation and voluntary retirement scheme. Fresh recruitment is being done only under the provision of rehabilitation policy, National Coal Wage Agreement, and filling up of backlog vacancies ofSC/ST.

Production per employees *i.e.* output per man-shift (OMS) in coal India Ltd. during the last five years, year-wise is given below:

Year	OMS (Tones)
2001-02	2.45
2002-03	2.67
2003-04	2.82
2004-05	3.05
2005-06 (Prov.)	3.28